

## The Three Dimensions of Sin

**Scripture:** Hebrews 3:12-13  
Mark 7:21-23  
Genesis 6:5-8; 18:20-21

### Introduction

The effect of sin on man is three dimensional. Its effect on men is far greater than appears at first perusal. The initial inspection of sin shows the consequences or effects of our sin to be minor. But the real effect is geometric rather than linear as first appears.

#### I. The dimension of deception

**Hebrews 3:13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

**Romans 7:11** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

- A. The appearance of being inconsequential
- B. The appearance of being concealed  
Example: Achan's sin -- Joshua 7
- C. The appearance of God's withholding something desirable from you  
Example: Eve's temptation--Genesis 3

#### II. The dimension of defilement

**Mark 7:21-23** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

- A. Sin produces internal decay and malignancy  
Example: Larry Gatlin's song, "Penny Annie" and the defilement of Linda Armstrong
- B. The internal conditions then produce more sin
- C. Defilement becomes self-perpetuating, more pervasive

**Romans 1:24, 26, 28** Wherefore God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ...For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: ...And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

#### III. The dimension of destruction

**Ezekiel 18:20a** The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

**Genesis 6:5-8** And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth and it grieved him to his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

- A. Sin's vast power to destroy
- B. Destruction the inevitable result of sin

#### Conclusion

Though your sin has deceived, defiled, and is destroying you, like Noah, God is extending his grace to you. Accept God's grace, and you will receive his mercy and salvation.